

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Mike Kelly, Frank Esposito, Steve Carroll, M. Murray, Matt Palmer, Dot Stillinger, Don Travisano, and Township Committee Liaison Curt Ritter. Absent Shankar Krishnan, Megan Schaaf.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2014 and January 2015 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

#### Roll Call

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the January 14, 2014 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING 7:29 – 7:43

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

GREEN TEAM MEETING – Steve participated in the 1/22/14 webinar sponsored by Sustainable Jersey. Sixteen new actions were added. Continued discussing sustainable jersey points for 2016. Pursue actions that are resourceful and point wise.

#### EC MEMBER IN THE NEWS

Matt was mentioned in the New York Times of January 20 as being part of Columbia University's achievement in creating a unique freshwater/saltwater marsh in a newly created park, Muscota Marsh, on the Harlem River at the northern tip of Manhattan. He is a professor in the university's department of ecology, evolution and environmental biology.

#### GVPCA walk.

If you're interested we can schedule a short walk around the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Lovely pond and wetland marshes with a stream at the back. This is where we hold the April Cleanup.

Dot Stillinger will check into funds available from the Mitigation grant money to use for trash removal at this conservation area.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

PENDING. Traver, 509 Shunpike Rd., Block 128, Lot 14, near Long Hill Chapel. 12-18-13. Application to NJDEP for an LOI. Owner proposes to subdivide the one-acre lot and construct a new house. Property is 1.4 acres in R-3 (1/2 acre) zone. Rear property line lies in wetlands which drain to the Great Swamp so should be classified as exceptional resource and hence require a 150 foot transition area. The rear third of the property is in the transition area. A wetlands Transition Area Waiver will be necessary. Letter has been sent to the NJDEP.

PENDING. Warren, 23 Susan Drive, Block 20 Lot 20. 12-2-13. Application to Board of Adjustment for Minimum front yard, Structural Retaining Wall, Disturbance of steep slopes, change in grade, height and structural retaining walls, variances to construct a new single family dwelling. A stop work order was issued because of violations of the steep slope ordinance and disturbances in the conservation easement. New approvals from the Board of Adjustment are required. A site visit by the Board of Adjustment was conducted on January 11. Memo was sent to Board of Adjustment with copies to Planning Board, Township Committee.

PENDING. Gunn, 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 9-30-13 by R. Gunn for a General Permit #8 for disturbance of up to 750 sf for clearing of vegetation, placement of pavement and expansion of building. DEP approved 9-30-13. See below.

PENDING. Gunn, 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 8-5-13 by R. Gunn for Floodway and Flood Hazard Area verifications. Letter to NJDEP has been sent concerning both Gunn applications.

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required for each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and stormwater runoff. Proposed driveways now exit onto Fairmount Avenue instead of Sunset Drive. Morris County Planning Board is not in favor of the application as it stands.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. The Refuge under no circumstances would consider acquiring it until the cleanup has been completed and all liability has been extinguished. It has been declared "an area in need of redevelopment" by the Township Committee. What does that mean for conservation purposes?

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. Planning Board has sent a letter to Township Committee recommending inclusion of the Green Checklist in the application checklist. Waiting on approval by the Township Committee. Complete Streets being incorporated into Circulation Element of the Master Plan. D. Travisano.

Township Committee report. Weekly recycling mentioned at last TC meeting, asking interested residents to contact Mr. Ritter with their thoughts, he has not heard from anyone. The township is working on establishing an electronic newsletter. Working on budget. C. Ritter, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. M. Kelly for M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaison. General discussion about possibly purchasing a piece of property. Mike will ask Open Space about a joint project with CTEC on planting leftover trees from sale. Dot Stillinger asked to appoint Mike Kelly as an Open Space liaison, replacing Shankar Krishnan. On a motion of Steve Carroll. 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Travisano, Mike Kelly was appointed as an Open Space liaison, with all in favor.

Communications Committee report.

Continuing to update website. Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web Master Tom Salvas.

Recycling Committee report.

Discussed weekly recycling pickup. Members agreed that a compromise for additional funding should be researched. Also, spoke of conducting a survey to get the residents opinion on recycling. Matt Palmer will draft a survey. M. Schaaf, F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

Emails to CTEC have subsided. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages. M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

Legal Issues Education Committee meeting was held on Monday, 1-27-14 at 7 p.m. Attending were Dot Stillinger, Mike Kelly, Steve Carroll. Brief discussion of possible future topics. LIEC will now meet intermittently at 6:30 p.m. right before a CTEC meeting.

## NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- Use \$900 of CTEC funds to send two teachers to a Rocket Composter workshop? Additional information needs to be provided.
- Bears have been sighted on Huron Drive. Bear workshop was held in November. EC bear education project?
- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.
- Conservation easements. Conservation Easement subcommittee will comprise of Dot Stillinger, Steve Carroll and Marilyn Murray.

- Old Bridge conservation easement tracking. Old Bridge ordinance requires property purchasers to be notified by the township in writing of any conservation easement. Can Chatham Township pass a similar ordinance? CTEC can prepare a draft ordinance based on the one from Old Bridge.

- Conservation easements on 4 properties on River Road, including the one on the Greeve property, need to be recorded and accepted. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned that a conservation easement on all four new parcels had to be granted to the Township. Developer was Nick Parisi.

- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
- Desnagging the Passaic River. Chatham Township did not join the other 5 nearby river towns in applying for a joint grant. No information on progress of work.
- Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant. Wasteful Surplus.
- Possible projects for grants.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District ([www.mcscd.org/](http://www.mcscd.org/)) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assume the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- November 2013. Letter to NJDEP concerning Gunn application for wetlands permits on property on Green Village Road.
- October 2013. Report sent by e-mail to Sunset Lake Association about observations during CTEC property walk with questions and suggestions.

#### EVENTS

- ANJEC Basic Training for Environmental Commissions, Saturday, March 1, 9:00am -1:30 pm, Morristown Town Hall, 3rd Floor -Senior Center, 200 South Street, Morristown. Free for CTEC members.
- Passaic River Symposium VI, Intersecting Priorities, Organized by the Passaic River Institute of Montclair State University, Thursday October 9, 2014, Friday October 10, 2014, Montclair State University Conference Center, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ. About \$60 if you identify yourself as an EC member. Note that any group can host a short workshop on their topic of interest. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums/>.
- The Rutgers Environmental Stewards Training Program will have new sessions of its course starting in January 2014 in locations around New Jersey. The Program provides training and experience that equips participants to contribute effectively to finding solutions for environmental problems in their communities. <http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Contacts.htm>. S. Carroll took the course and can comment.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

#### ADJOURN

9:45

Carolyn Scannelli